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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1106th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 June 2016

**On the invitation to the
OSCE Office for the Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
to observe the State Duma elections**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to inform the OSCE participating States that, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin of 17 June, elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the new (seventh) convocation have been scheduled for 18 September 2016.

In accordance with the commitments under the CSCE Copenhagen Document of 1990, the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, Ms. Ella Pamfilova, sent a letter to the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Mr. Michael Georg Link, on 20 June inviting it to observe the preparations for and holding of the elections in the Russian Federation. We have circulated a corresponding note verbale to all participating States. We are expecting an OSCE/ODIHR needs assessment mission to arrive in Russia shortly to see how the preparations for the upcoming elections are proceeding.

Thank you for your attention.